

Iceland Volcano Update

Last updated: 1658 BST on Friday, 7 May 2010

Information received from the Icelandic Meteorological Office has confirmed that explosive activity from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano increased in the last two days with ash ejected to a height of between 20,000 and 30,000 ft at times. The Icelandic Met Office state that there are no signs that the eruption is about to end.



Winds remain from the north-east at present with ash remaining to the west of the UK. As a result NATS continues to advise aircraft about airspace restrictions affecting transatlantic flights, allowing them to cross the Atlantic safely.

Later in the weekend weather patterns are set to change and may bring the ash cloud back into parts of UK airspace toward the end of the weekend and into next week.

The situation remains very dynamic. As the volcanic activity changes, the Met Office will continue to provide timely information to NATS and CAA about the dispersion of the volcanic ash, in line with the new engine criteria set by the CAA and the aviation industry.

Any decisions on airspace closures are the responsibility of CAA and further information on the impacts of this increased activity should be sought from them.

Related links:

[CAA](#) — UK Civil Aviation Authority

[NATS](#) — National Air Traffic Services

[Icelandic Met Office: Update on activity](#)

Notes to editors:

- As one of only two [World Area Forecast Centres](#), the Met Office regularly advises the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and National Air Traffic Services.
- Met Office forecasters monitor volcanic eruptions as part of the Met Office's role in the global network of nine Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAAC).
- Volcanic ash can be dangerous for aircraft, causing damage, reducing visibility, and potentially clogging engines.
- The Met Office's Environment Monitoring and Response Centre is constantly monitoring the Iceland area. Our first advisory was issued at 1400 on 14 April and they have subsequently been updated every six hours.

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